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FINANCIAL

AND

SCHOOL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN,

FOR THE

Year Ending March 1, 1869.

NASHUA:

MOORE & LANGLEY, PRINTERS,

1869.

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REPORT

OF THE

OVERSEER OF THE POOR.

The subscriber, agent of town farm, reports as follows:—

To cost of farm,	2,664 38
Amount of stock as appraised last year,	787 50
Hay and fodder,	360 00
Farming tools,	196 75
Provisions and produce,	425 59
Miscellaneous articles,	270 95
There will be due James Emery for his services, April 1, 1869,	325 00
Interest on farm,	159 86
Agent's services,	19 00
	<hr/> 5,209 03

Appraisal of property Feb. 16, 1869.

CR.

By farm,	2,664 38
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LIVE STOCK.

2 oxen, 250 00 ; 7 cows, 440 00,	690 00
1 horse, 100 00 ; 3 shoats, 45 00	145 00
13 fowls,	12 00
	<hr/> 847 00

HAY AND FODDER.

12 tons market hay,	180 00	
1 1-4 tons meadow hay,	13 00	
Straw and corn fodder,	8 00	
	<hr/>	201 00

FARMING TOOLS.

5 hay forks, 2 50 ; 2 manure forks 3 00,	5 50	
3 shovels, 2 00 ; 1 cart, 25 00,	27 00	
2 wheelbarrows, 8 00 ; 3 ladders, 2 00,	10 00	
Shaving horse and flail,	5 50	
2 cards, 0.20 ; 6 rakes, 1 00,	1 20	
2 drag rakes, 2 00 ; 1 wagon, 50 00,	52 00	
1 hammer, 0.75 ; 2 woodsaws, 2 50,	3 25	
2 sleighs, 10 00 ; ox yokes, 4 00,	14 00	
1 hammer, 0.75 ; 2 wood saws, 2 50,	3 25	
Carpenter's tools, 7 00 ; 5 hoes, 2 00,	9 00	
Lot scythes, 2 25 ; 2 snaths 1 25,	3 50	
1 bush scythe, 1 00 ; 1 grindstone, 2 00,	3 00	
Sickle and corn cutter,	50	
Nails, 0.30 ; measures, 50,	80	
Beetle and wedges, 1 00 ; 2 iron bars, 3 00,	4 00	
1 harness, 8 00 ; 1 horse blanket, 2 50,	10 50	
Surcingle, 1 00 ; 1 harrow, 5 00,	6 00	
2 ox sleds, 5 00 ; 3 chains, 5 00,	10 00	
4 plows and cultivator,	20 00	
8 axes, 4 00 ; monkey wrench, 1 25,	5 25	
Whiffletree and chain,	1 25	
1 stone drag, 0.50 ; 4 sled runners, 1 50,	2 00	
	<hr/>	189 25

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

70 bushels corn, 88 00 ; 8 bushels wheat,		
20 00,	108 00	
10 bushels barley, 15 00 ; 12 bushels		
oats, 9 60,	24 60	
2 bushels beans, 8 50 ; 175 bushels pota-		
toes, 88 00,	96 50	
7 bushels turnips, 3 00 ; garden sauce,		
3 00,	6 00	

Peas, 2 00 ; 124 lbs cheese, 22 00,	24 00	
225 lbs salt beef, 25 00 ; 10 lbs fresh beef, 1 60,	26 60	
350 lbs salt pork, 70 00 ; 150 lbs ham, 30 00,	100 00	
18 lbs fresh pork, 3 00 ; 4 lbs sausages, 1 00,	4 00	
52 lbs lard, 12 00 ; 92 lbs butter, 37 00,	49 00	
30 lbs dried apple, 3 75 ; mince meat, 2 00,	5 75	
Flour and meal,	17 00	
	<hr/>	461 45

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

Shoe bench, 1 00 ; lumber, 15 00,	16 00	
1 cider barrel, 1 00 ; 14 flour barrels, 2 00,	3 00	
7 bags 2 00 ; 3 baskets, 1 75,	3 75	
15 gallons soap. 3 75 ; soap grease, 3 00,	6 75	
Matches, 0.60 ; salt, 2 00 ; 1 gun, 1 00,	3 60	
Sap fixtures, 50 00 ; groceries, 5 00,	55 00	
5 gallons molasses, 2 75 ; 4 dozen eggs, 1 00,	3 75	
1 1-2 lbs rolls, 1 25 ; 3 pairs feeting, 1 50,	2 75	
1 gimlet, 0.10 ; old iron, 1 00,	1 10	
Whip lash, 0.10 ; 30 lbs candles, 5 00,	5 10	
Household furniture as appraised by the selectmen,	239 63	
	<hr/>	340 43
Cash in agent's hands,		35 83
		<hr/>
		4,739 34

Schedule of articles sold from the farm with the amount received for the same during the year, ending Feb. 16, 1869.

Use of horse, 22 87 ; 6 calves, 63 00,	85 87
Butter, 160 62 ; pork, 19 91,	180 53
4 steers, 342 50 ; 2 fowls, 1 70,	344 20
37 pairs feeting, 18 50 ; Huff estate, 6 24,	24 74

Breaking roads in 1868, 5 73; old iron,	
1 21,	6 94
Cheese, 6 92; 3 bushels barley, 4 65,	11 57
119 1-2 lbs beef, 13 74; 58 lbs hide, 5 80,	19 54
11 dozen eggs,	3 84
	<hr/>
	677 23
Received from the treasurer,	220 00
	<hr/>
	897 23

Which is accounted for as follows :

Paid for soap, 0.66; extra labor, 18 30,	18 96
filin saws, 2 00; grinding grain, 5 54,	7 54
vinegar, 0.85; tinware, 14 19.	15 04
12 lbs wool, 4 80; eggs, 0 67,	5 47
Stove and furniture,	23 69
plow point, 0.50; joiner work, 1 90;	2 40
blacksmith's bill, 15 90; Deering tax,	
1 02,	16 92
carding wool, 1 47; dried apple, 2 01,	3 48
repairing harness, 1 52; lumber, 0.20,	1 72
pasturing stock, 18 00; straw, 0.58,	18 58
1 pint rum, 0.64; threshing grain, 3 25,	3 89
3 pigs, 9 00; hair, 0.18,	9 18
saw bill, 1 80; whip lash, 0.20,	2 00
making coat, 1 25; mason work, 1 25,	2 50
coopering, 1 47; beef, 0.58,	2 05
store bill contracted by D. Gray,	28 16
butchering, 2 25; proving Huff ac't,	
1 00,	3 25
Downes Brothers store bill,	236 48
tapping boots, 2 46; butter, 1 64,	4 10
2 chairs, 1 table, 5 50; beans, 1 12,	6 62
1 cow, 52 50; soap grease, 1 25.	53 75
1 pair oxen, 220 00; paid into	
treasury, 157 50,	377 50
sundry small bills,	11 82
surcingle, 1 00; repairing clock, 90,	1 90
joist, 0.50; fish, 45,	4 40
cash in agents hands,	35 83
	<hr/>
	897 23

The average number of paupers that have been supported on the farm, is five and three-eighths. The whole expense of supporting paupers on the farm during the past year is \$469 69. The support of paupers off the farm is 365 78 making a total of \$835 47 for the support of town paupers during the past year. Paid for the support of county paupers \$74 76, received from the county, \$61 76; due the town \$13 00.

DANIEL TOBJE,

Overscer of Poor and Agent of Town Farm.

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT.

The subscribers, accountants for the town of Frances-town for the year ending March 1, 1869, report as follows :

STATEMENT.

Whole amount of taxes assessed on the polls and estates of the inhabitants of said town, is \$8,851.94. Appropriated as follows :

State tax,	\$2,437 50
County tax,	832 90
Town tax,	5,581 54
	—————\$8,851 94

The treasurer of the town charges himself with the following sums :

Balance in the treasury last year,	1,462 09
Cash received of Selectmen, borrowed for the town,	2,377 57
Cash received of Francis H. Dunklee, taxes of 1867,	1,734 72
Cash received of Francis H. Dunklee, collector, at sundry times,	3,900 00
Cash received for interest on note,	6 40
“ “ from the State,	326 81
“ “ of Daniel Tobie, agent of town farm,	213 50
	—————10,021.09

The treasurer credits himself with the following disbursements, ordered by the Selectmen, to wit:

FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,	\$102 16
“ “ 3,	297 16
“ “ 4,	124 42
“ “ 5,	214 86
“ “ 6,	99 88
“ “ 7,	80 98
“ “ 8,	87 24
“ “ 9,	32 78
“ “ 10,	33 61
“ “ 12,	29 08
George Whitfield,	1 35
	<hr/> \$1,103.52
Paid Geo. F. Pettee, as S. S. Committee,	60.00

EXTRA REPAIRS ON HIGHWAYS.

Paid George N. White, repairs on bridge,	16 00
H. E. Whitfield, stringers, plank and labor,	25 91
James Whitfield, plank and labor	4 45
Gould & Roach, building bridge,	60 00
Daniel Ordway, labor on highway,	14 48
Samuel W. Eaton, “ bridge,	35 00
John West, bridge plank,	10 50
Moses B. Fisher, labor on bridge,	12 98
David Butterfield, repairing bridge,	14 33
Amos Whittemore, plank and labor,	16 38
	<hr/> 210 03

BREAKING ROADS.

Paid Edmund Shattuck,	16 40
B. F. Lovering,	19 80
David Gray,	22 12
S. S. Bailey,	8 00
E. G. Kemp,	12 02

Paid E. T. Blanchard,	11 65
D. W. Duncklee,	1 95
J. W. Cooper,	3 58
E. W. Coburn,	75
M. Dutton,	8 95
Hiram Patch,	11 85
H. J. Collins,	3 74
J. F. Duncklee,	5 05
F. H. Duncklee,	2 60
E. K. Batchelder,	10 50
S. B. Collins,	4 80
David Butterfield,	6 05
Thomas E. Fisher,	7 50
Samuel Lolley,	1 60
H. F. Dinsmore,	7 20
N. & Q. B. Farnum,	1 50
John Weston,	5 07
S. W. Eaton,	6 90
Samuel L. Felch,	9 66
John Patch,	4 20
P. B. Andrews,	3 30
David Manahan	12 30
David W. Hill,	8 30
Daniel Tobie,	5 73
B. S. Abbott,	8 40
J. E. Presby,	21 48
George Kingsbury, Jr.,	2 55
Moses W. Emerson,	5 40
S. G. Wood,	4 70
Eaton Sleeper,	6 44
Thomas Averell,	3 60
Thomas P. Rand,	6 17
George H. Richardson,	5 17

 286 98

SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

Paid N. H. Asylum, support of Mark Pettee,	209 91
Daniel Tobie, support of William Gilbert,	44 75

Paid expense of Abby Dockham and Chas. H. Foote, at State Reform School	78 00
Daniel Tobie, support of Mrs. Pond,	5 25
Daniel Tobie, support of Betsey Stanley,	36 87

 374 78

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid J. C. Dennison, abatement of dog tax,	1 00
Geo. E. Downs, for town reports,	31 50
Thomas E. Fisher, notes and inter- est,	828 38
Misses McLane, interest on note,	24 00
David Gray, on his note,	115 35
Daniel Tobie, to purchase stock,	250 00
H. M. D. Hopkins, for guide boards,	1 50
David Brown, " stone posts,	3 50
Mrs Lois Hopkins, on note,	61 97
Isaac Low interest on note,	24 37
H. Richardson, room and stationery,	9 70
David Gray, crockery,	10 75
" " services on town farm	200 00
John Johnson, note and interest,	59 21
Levi Dodge, damage to horse,	13 00
Francis Gould, interest on note,	60 00
Mrs J. S. Follansbee, note and in- terest,	238 07
Thomas P. Rand, note and interest,	190 31
David Dennison, shingling and painting engine house and painting stone posts,	19 67
Bixby & Bradford, shingles,	13 06
Elvira W. Ames, note and interest,	453 76
Clarinda McCurdy, interest on note,	67 58
J. G. Proctor, drawing lumber,	1 50
David McLaine, note and interest,	340 62
Issachur Dodge, repairing blinds on meeting-house,	2 50
Francestown Bank, discount on note,	10 00
John G. Morse, note and interest,	399 89

Paid Abigail H. Trow, interest on note,	15 00
Betsey Trow, " " "	3 00
Harriet D. Adams, " "	12 00
A. N. Whitfield, drawing shingles,	1 00
P. H. Bixby, interest on notes,	23 02
George F. Pettee, interest on Wood- bury fund,	60 00
Nancy C. Draper, notes and interest,	483 03
John P. Richardson, interest on note,	12 00
B. S. Abbott, " "	13 19
Israel Bachelder, on note,	200 00
John A. Holt, note and interest,	77 53
Samuel P. Newton, note and interest,	105 50
R. C. Stanley, interest on note,	6 00
George E. Downs, nails and paint,	30 00
	<hr/> 4,473.35
Edmund Shattuck, abatement on tax,	3 00
Nath'l Whitfield, note and interest,	112 36
Harvey W. Patch, " "	244 00
John Patch,	586 20
Wm. Richards, painting sign,	1 50
B. F. Abbott, note and interest,	239 18
Betsey Low, on note,	60 00
Pamela Weston interest on note,	19 66
Arthur N. Bixby, note and interest,	89 43
Haldah Richardson, interest on note,	15 00
Daniel F. Patch, for record book,	5 00
Nahum Russell, over assessment,	2 40
Lucy Everett, " "	3 40
F. H. Dunklee, non-resident high- way tax,	41 68
Henry Richardson, damage to Starrett,	8 00
F. H. Dunklee, abatement of taxes,	24 32
T. E. Taylor, damage on highway,	50 00
Wm. Butterfield, painting guide board,	75
" " sheep killed by dogs,	4 00
George G. Cram, " " "	11 00
Ezra C. Stanley, interest on note	13 00
Luke W. Preston, ringing bell, digging and filling graves,	68 50

Paid Luke W. Preston, bier, and repairing hearse and house,	\$8 00
Wm. H. Stevens, for engine men,	24 50
Wm. H. Farnum, labor haying 1867,	5 00
Julia M. Dunklee, interest on note,	9 55
Polly and Betsey McAlvin, interest on note,	1 54
John West for public watering place,	3 00
	<hr/> 6,127.32

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Henry Richardson, selectman,	80 00
John West, " "	60 00
A. H. Bixby, " "	65 00
L. B. Bradford, treasurer,	15 00
Daniel F. Patch, town clerk,	15 00
F. H. Dunklee, collector,	66 90
Daniel Tobie, overseer of poor,	40 00
D. Atwood, and S. D. Downs, accountants,	4 00
Wm. H. Farnum, constable,	6 00
	<hr/> 351.90

Whole amount of receipts,	10,021 09
" " disbursements,	8,514 53
	<hr/> 1,506 56

STATEMENT.

Amount of notes against the town with interest to March 1, 1869,	20,794 81
Balance in treasury,	1,506 56
" collector's hands,	1,681 54
" due from U. S. for bounties,	1,840 00
Bank tax of 1867,	82 50
	<hr/> 5,110 60

Leaving the town in debt,	15,684 21
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The foregoing accounts are correctly cast and duly vouched.

DAVID ATWOOD,	Accountants.
SAMUEL D. DOWNES,	

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ANOTHER year with its changes, its joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments, has fled, and is numbered with the things that were; and again are we called upon to render an account of our stewardship to the citizens of Francetown, whose servant we are.

Nothing remarkable has occurred in the history of our schools the past year to materially affect their progress.

The schools, as usual, have been some good, others not so good, and some others hardly worthy the name. Prudential committees have generally been elected who have had in view the best interests of the children, rather than the lucrativeness of the office, or the gratifying of some selfish propensity. We have made about forty-five visits the past year; and, from the knowledge thus obtained, give a brief report of the success of each teacher, and the progress of each school.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Money, \$102 16. S. W. Eaton, Prudential Com.

SUMMER.

Length of school, 10 weeks; number of scholars, 11; average, 10 5-7; wages, \$18 per month.

Mary G. Comstock, teacher. Attendance, good. The teacher applied herself to her vocation, and the term was, in most respects, a profitable one. The reading was quite good. Classes in arithmetic not quite so thorough as desirable.

WINTER.

Length of School, 10½ weeks, number of scholars, 17; average, 14; wages, \$22 per month.

Miss Betsey L. Mason, of Milford, a veteran teacher, was employed for the winter term. Several of the larger scholars attending the Academy, the school was not so large as the previous winter. The examination was quite good; pupils having a good understanding of the branches pursued, especially in arithmetic and geography. The books containing the spelling lessons were well-written, and generally well spelled. The portions of scripture committed and recited at examination, were well done and worthy of note. We think the commands of the teacher were not, at all times, so fully obeyed as to obtain that degree of order so necessary.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Money, \$297 16. K. W. Emerson, Prudential Com.

SUMMER.

The school being too large to be accommodated in either room, and also too large for one teacher to

properly teach and govern, it was divided. The upper department, embracing the more advanced scholars, was taught by M. Emmie Emerson. Length of school, 12 weeks ; number of scholars, 30 ; average, 24 ; wages, \$22 per month. The school was much broken up by absences, many of which were entirely unnecessary. Parents, who needlessly allow your children to vacate the schoolroom, think whom you are injuring. Thoroughness and promptness were the leading features in the school. The variety of exercises, devised by the teacher, prevented all tiresomeness. Classes in reading and Colburn's Arithmetic excelled. The examination showed that scholars had been taught to *think* and pay attention. The tablets, which were procured through the efforts of the Misses E., and the generosity of the District, did their work ; and we think no one attending the examinations in No. 3, would regret the small amount paid by them.

PRIMARY.

It would seem to be enough to say that the little ones, for truly they were all such, were cared for by Sarah E. Emerson.

Length of school, 12 weeks ; number of scholars, 22 ; average, $19\frac{1}{2}$; wages, \$22 per month. If there is any one exactly adapted to meet the wants of the little folks, wait upon them, calm their fears, and make school a place to be desired, 'tis Sarah E. Her scholars need no driving to school. Everything in order, every eye and hand working in perfect unison with the teacher. The recitations, exercise in gymnastics, and every little part, went to make up a truly model school. Reading very good, with spelling "hard to beat."

WINTER.

Upwards of thirty of the advanced scholars were

sent to the Academy, (the district paying \$3 each) under the guidance of T. O. Knowlton, A. B.; and, judging from the examination, we think them well cared for, and if they did not profit, it was no fault of the teacher. All the exercises showed thoroughness in teaching.

The little ones were again entrusted to the care of Sarah E. Emerson, who worked like magic upon the little minds. Her equals for teaching, harmonizing the rich and poor, those of quick mental perception and those of more doubtful thinking powers; for making everything move on with clock-like precision; explaining the misty difficulties with clearness, and furnishing such variety for mind, eye and tongue to feast upon, are rare, and her superiors not within our knowledge. Geography, spelling and mental arithmetic were excellent. We are sorry to lose her, even for a time, from our corps of teachers; but trusting she will be "eyes to the blind," we submit to her leave of absence. Length of school, 10 weeks; number of scholars, 37; average, $30\frac{1}{2}$; wages, \$28 per month.

A subscription school of eight weeks, with 24 scholars, average, 20, was successfully taught by Sarah E. Emerson, in the autumn.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Money, \$124.42. I. B. Farnum, Prudential Com.

SUMMER.

Length of school, 11 weeks; number of scholars, 21; average, 20; wages, \$10 per month, exclusive of board. Julia A. Dodge teacher.

This school made good improvement in all its branches; scholars understood themselves and their

teacher well. The reading was very good ; the writing books showed marked improvement. A little more energy on the part of the scholars in answering would have been an improvement.

WINTER.

Length of school, 12 weeks ; number of scholars, 22 ; average, 20 ; wages, \$22 per month. Julia A. Dodge gave so good satisfaction in the summer term as to be hired in the winter. Scholars all loved their teacher ; and she was one fully competent and willing to work for the good of her pupils ; but the closing examination did not show that degree of order and improvement which the parents present, and your committee had reason to expect. There was not that single fixedness of purpose ; that attention so important to improvement. Attention must be arrested and held, before we can expect progress. From the kindness of her heart, the teacher was too lenient. Classes in reading and geography appeared the best. Spelling, rather *phonographic*.

In justice to the examination we would say, that the exhibition of dogs, &c., received full its share of attention.

A private school of six weeks was taught by Julia A. Dodge, in the autumn, and attended by nearly all the scholars in the district.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Money, \$214 86. Geo. F. Pettee, Prudential Com.

SUMMER.

Length of school, 12 weeks ; number of scholars, 20 ; average, 18 ; wages, \$20 per month. Carrie M. Cochran here taught her third term of school in this

district, with the same good degree of success as heretofore. The little folks loved their teacher, and would be detained from school only when absolutely necessary. The classes in arithmetic and geography excelled.

AUTUMN.

Length of school, 8 weeks ; number of scholars, 15 ; average, 13 3-5 ; wages, \$20 per month. The experiment of having a short fall term was tried with entire satisfaction. Mary R. Kingsbury taught the term. The scholars were very punctual, and through Miss K.'s faithful teaching, much improvement was made in the right direction in all the branches, especially in reading and arithmetic.

WINTER.

Length of school, 12 weeks ; number of scholars, 18 ; average, 15 $\frac{1}{3}$; wages, \$26 per month.

M. Emmie Emerson, teacher. The school was somewhat broken up by the sickness of both teacher and scholars, which always makes a break in the programme laid out, and much retards the progress of a school. The closing exercises, though much reduced in numbers by sickness, showed thoroughness in teaching, and a fair share of improvement. Classes in reading and spelling made fine progress.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Money, \$99 88. Moses W. Emerson, Prud. Com.

SUMMER.

Length of school, 11 weeks ; number of scholars, 7 ; average, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; wages, \$9 per month, exclusive of board. Emma F. George, who taught the previous

summer, did good work the second time to the six little bright-eyed boys that were gathered from as many different families. The reading was fair and the spelling excellent for boys of their age. The recitations were well committed, and appropriate. The teacher took much pains with the deportment of her pupils and to make her teaching practical.

AUTUMN.

Length of school, eight weeks. Seven boys constituted the school. Average, 6 17-20 ; wages, \$22 per month.

This was a good school, taking into consideration the number and size of scholars. Not a dull one here, and it was evident that they had worked, and made study a real business. A good many little nick-nacks were gathered up for time of need.

DISTRICT No. 7.

Money, \$80 98. Wm. Cochran, Prudential Com.

WINTER.

The small scholars being a minus quantity in this district, only one term was had, and that in the winter, under the direction of Henry P. Dearborn, of So. Weare. We congratulate the district in again being permitted to enjoy a season of peace and quiet without interruption. Mr. D.'s discipline was excellent, his teaching thorough, and he has left his mark upon the deportment and progress of his pupils. Rules in arithmetic and for spelling, were well-committed. Length of school, 10 weeks ; number of scholars, 9 ; average, 8½ ; wages, \$35 per month.

DISTRICT No. 8.

Money, \$87 94. David Starrett, Prudential Com.

WINTER.

Length of school, 11 weeks; wages, \$20 per month. The district being destitute of a school house, and nearly so of children, there was no school only in winter, and that taught in Mr. D. Manahan's house, by Frances S. Manahan. Three scholars constituted the school, with an average of $2\frac{3}{4}$. We think the scholars made good use of their time, and learned well.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Money, \$32 78. Charles Blanchard, Prud'tial Com.

WINTER.

No summer school. The winter term, under the instruction of Ida E. Patch commenced with a goodly number for this district; was visited when in operation but two or three days, giving promise of at least a fair school. The next we learned was by register, showing that the length of school was 8 weeks; number of scholars 10; average, $8\frac{3}{4}$; wages, \$18 per month. The school being "all up" some two weeks previous to receiving the register, we are unable to state the improvement; also, whether it lived out its allotted number of days in peace and quiet, having a prosperous school, but by mistake failed to notify the committee; or whether it did all upon a time for want of—those interested know better than we. We *hope* they had a good school.

DISTRICT No. 10.

Money, \$33 61. Moses B. Fisher, Prudential Com.

SUMMER.

Union with Lyndeborough. Length of school, 8 weeks ; number of scholars, 10, 5 belonging to each town ; average, $9\frac{1}{3}$; wages, \$11 per month. Sarah F. Richardson, of Lyndeborough, teacher. The judicious management of the school, and the thoroughness of the scholars, spoke well for Miss R.'s success as a teacher. It was her first school ; and she accomplished all that could be expected.

WINTER.

Length of school, 12 weeks ; number of scholars, 13, 10 being from Francestown ; average, 10 5-6 ; wages, \$28 per month. D. Atherton Starrett here commenced his labors of teaching. His field of labor was not so promising as could be desired. The school was males entirely, which rather destroyed the equilibrium of affairs. There was not quite that *union* and understanding between teacher, parents and scholars, so desirable to success. The examination, in the main, was good. The teacher showed himself a scholar : making his work practical,—not one of those book-bound specimens of humanity, asking the questions from the book, then seeking in the book for an answer, but questioning in an off-hand, original style.

DISTRICT No. 12.

Money, \$29 08. A. J. Dodge, Prudential Com.

SUMMER.

Union with New Boston. Number of scholars, 4, two from each town ; average, $3\frac{2}{3}$; length of school, 10 weeks ; wages, \$16 per month. Emily

G. Mansfield, of Lynn, Mass., a teacher of experience, spent ten weeks in this model house. Scholars were good in grammar and arithmetic : a little deficient in spelling. The school, at best, was small, and a little broken by sickness.

WINTER.

Length of school, 10 weeks ; number of scholars, 7, five belonging to New Boston ; average $6\frac{2}{3}$; wages, \$16 per month. Mrs. Lydia S. Langdell, of New Boston, a lady of much experience, and of good repute wherever taught. The common English and higher branches of geometry, astronomy and philosophy, were systematically taught ; and the entire school, from large to small, showed to good advantage. Fortunate for the children of No. 12 to be under the guidance and drill of such a thorough, practical teacher.

From the foregoing we gather a few facts : There has been 208 weeks of public, and 14 weeks of private school taught in town the past year, by sixteen different teachers ; and these schools have been attended by 225 different scholars. The average per cent of attendance is nearly 90, an improvement on the last year of three per cent. The best attendance was in the fall term of No. 6, being 98 per cent. The poorest, the upper school, No. 3, summer, being only 80 per cent.

The interest of the "Woodbury Fund" (\$60) has been expended in books, upwards of one hundred volumes, adapted to scholars of various ages, and distributed in the several districts, as heretofore.

No change in text books has been affected the past year, excepting that of geographies. We felt that a change was much needed, from the fact that both Cornell's and Colton & Fitch's, which were being used, were much behind the times, being published

some years ago, since which many changes have taken place in the country, rendering many pages of these geographies, either false or useless. At the commencement of the winter terms, we introduced Guyot's, and have been pleased with the result. The whole system is somewhat novel, and unlike other text books on geography. A new interest has been awakened upon the subject in almost every school. Many pupils who either thought themselves too old or too wise to study geography, were induced to study Guyot's, and have pursued it with pleasure and profit. From our personal examination of it, and the improvement made in it for one term, we think it *the* geography for our schools.

The additional amount of money appropriated by the Legislature, together with the extra sum voted by the town, have enabled the districts to have longer terms, which was much needed. Our schools are now nearly all of good length; but money and length of school are not all that is necessary. Money cannot *always* procure a good school no more than it can health and happiness. Money is an essential thing; but does not as much depend upon the man with whom the money is entrusted, as the *amount* of money? Sometimes the hankering after "the loaves and fishes," or the readiness to hire the first applicant who will work *cheap*, gives us altogether too much school in *quantity*, and too little in *quality*. We prefer to have the quality right up to the standard, so it shall suffer no loss by analysis; and then the quantity as we can afford.

We are glad to learn from the Registers that teachers are being better paid for their services than heretofore; not that we have money to throw away, but good, experienced teachers are in demand, and can command good pay. Now if we do not wish to break in "raw recruits" for our neighbors, or put up

with second-rate teachers, to the detriment of our youth, we must make the pay to correspond to the ability of the teacher. If it is not policy for a farmer or a manufacturing company, where only dollars and cents are to be taken into account, to hire a cheap hand to superintend their affairs, how much less a district where faculties of body and mind are at stake!

That foolish old custom of shutting out the teacher on New Year's day is still kept up in some two or three instances in this town. We hope that this old relic of barbarism, which injures most of all those who are ungentlemanly enough to participate in the act; those who generally love ignorance rather than knowledge; rowdyism rather than a good name; those who deprive themselves of a day for improvement when there is none to spare, will ere long be banished from our land. Time is precious; and if young *gentlemen* think otherwise now, perhaps in after years they may look back with regret upon some of these lost, misused, New Year's days, and sigh for the days that were worse than lost.

While we think our schools compare favorably with those of former years, and would suffer no loss by being compared with the schools of the neighboring towns, we are no content to rest here. Our schools have not yet attained that stand of excellence which approaches near perfection. There is not that true interest and progress in our schools which our own individual good, the good of our children, and the welfare of the community requires. Now, to what can we attribute this want of success in our schools? Is it not that there is a want of harmony of feeling in the district in matters pertaining to education? A

lack of interest on the part of parents to visit the school, encourage teacher and scholars? When parents place a comparative value upon the district school; and when children are led to understand, in the true sense of the term, that a good education, a good name, a good moral character, habits of punctuality, obedience, honesty and sobriety are all to be formed or fostered in the schoolroom; and that they are invaluable legacies left to the young, to enable them to "stem the storm" through life's rough passage, then there will be a waking up, and the district school will be a different thing.

That the *government* of a school is of vital importance, not only as it concerns the progress of studies, but to all the after acts of life, no one will deny. We feel constrained to say that in some instances that good, sound discipline, so essential to the welfare of a school, has not been maintained. If we expect our children to grow up law-loving and law-abiding citizens, should they not be properly governed at school? "Order is Heaven's first law." Where is it more needed, or where is the place that we should expect to witness its salutary effects, if not in the school room? The inventive spirit of the Yankee is to be seen in all our schools. If the teacher does not have laws and enforce them, Young America will invent some mischief of his own with which to amuse himself and neighbors. Some teachers fail to establish and maintain good order, for fear of offending larger scholars. This is just the step to show that they are not the *governors* but the *governed*. Others think that the most peaceable way will work them safely to the end, thinking of naught but to get *through*. Others seem not to know how the thing's done, and care as little.

We do not advocate a long, tyrannical code of laws, but few, and obeyed to the letter. Every law which a teacher has which is not thoroughly obeyed only weakens his power. That teacher who understands human nature, and possesses that inventive genius which interests, and furnishes constant employment for her pupils, rarely fails of securing good order, and becoming successful as a teacher.

Parents, if you expect that your children will receive benefit from the district school, they must be there,—the more constant, the more interest, and consequently the more improvement. If your children are allowed to absent themselves from school for any trivial reason, don't complain that they are not instructed. If, from reports, the school is not up to your ideal of a good school, "publish it not in Gath," but with a spirit of kindness go to headquarters and ascertain the true state of affairs. If you desire a *good* teacher, secure a *good* agent, if it does not happen to be "his turn."

If you would reap an abundant harvest from the labors of your teacher, by little acts of kindness, assure her that you are with her to cheer her heart and hold up her hands through her labors and trials in the school room.

When parents, teachers and children feel that "knowledge is power," that "ignorance is crime," and that our district school is the place to obtain the one and dispel the other, then new effort will be put forth; then new interest be awakened; then a more general diffusion of knowledge will be witnessed throughout our land, and the district school, in a great measure, accomplish the true object for which it was established.

That this good time may speedily come, is the earnest wish of your humble servant,

GEO. F. PETTEE,

Superintending School Committee.

Francestown, Feb. 24, 1869.

